

UCI inspection: Starts Monday

**Welcome ACC IG Team ...
Let's take charge and show
we've got.**

Red Carpet Rollout

This week Whiteman welcomes ...

Brig. Gen. Stephen Miller
Air Combat Command Inspector General

The ACC unit compliance inspection team

News in Brief

Recertification of BAH required

Military members who haven't had a permanent change of station in four years or more are required to recertify their basic allowance housing entitlement. The 509th Comptroller Squadron members notified more than 800 affected members by e-mail. The e-mail contained two attachments: an Air Force Form 594 or a certification form and instructions on how to complete the form. Customers must submit their certification to finance customer service within 30 days of e-mail notification. Recertification will continue as members pass the four-year time-on-station mark. For more details, call 1st Lt. Jason Williams at 687-5389.

Commander's farewell dinner set

A farewell dinner for Brig. Gen. Doug Raaberg, 509th Bomb Wing commander, and his wife, Claudia, begins at 5:30 a.m. April 23 at Mission's End. The cost is \$17.15 for club members and \$19.15 for nonmembers. To sign up, contact your group executive officer by April 20.

Yard waste collection set

Base housing yard waste will be collected on regularly scheduled collection days. Yard waste must be placed curbside in biodegradable bags obtained from the self-help store. Yard waste placed in plastic bags won't be collected. Brush must be bundled using a suitable binder and must not exceed four feet and can't exceed 50 pounds. Large containers are available to store the waste at the recycling center. For more details, call the 509th Civil Engineer Squadron Maintenance Engineering Flight at 687-2627.

Military appreciation day set at CMSU

Central Missouri State University's Mules baseball team hosts a military appreciation day April 17. Military members and their families get in free with a military identification card for the double header against the Missouri Western State College Grifons. The first game starts at 1 p.m. at James R. Crane Stadium/Robert N. Tompkins Field. For more details, call the public affairs office at 687-6123.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Lt. Col. Gary Konnert, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, presents Lt. Col. Britt Bankson, 72nd TES commander, with a plaque for crossing the 1,000-hour milestone April 1.

The 1,000 hour club

72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron commander joins elite group

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Britt Bankson has joined a select group of B-2 pilots. The 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron commander reached the B-2 1,000 hour milestone April 1.

"It means I'm officially a dinosaur," joked the colonel. "I'm lucky and blessed to have this opportunity."

Colonel Bankson flew a 10.5-hour sortie in the *Spirit of Oklahoma*. He flew in a test mission to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. and back.

"It's a coming-of-age for the (B-2) weapons system," Colonel Bankson said. "The B-2 has been a key instrument of airpower. As a result, it's become mainstream now."

Colonel Bankson was greeted with a water shower from his children, Luika and Adam, and his wife, Wendy. Lt. Col. Gary Konnert, 72nd TES, presented Colonel Bankson with certificate for his achievement.

"(Flying 1,000 hours in the B-2) is outstanding," said Maj. John Paganoni, 72nd TES integrated functional capability officer. "It's a great accomplishment for any B-2 pilot. It's a challenge to run a squadron especially with the demands of a test squadron while additionally helping the wing and flying. It's a testament to his personal ability to manage and coordinate the multiple demands."

Colonel Bankson thanked his current and former commanders for giving him the chance to become a leader and still have the opportunity to fly. He has more than 3,500 flying hours.

The 19-year Air Force veteran originally served at Whiteman in October 1995 first as a student B-2 pilot, then as a mission commander.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sarah Law

Lt. Col. Britt Bankson, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron commander, is greeted by a water shower from his wife, Wendy.

He's a certified instructor pilot in the B-2 and T-38. He flew two 30-hour combat sorties during Operation Allied Force over Kosovo in 1998. One of those sorties was with then-Lt. Col. Curtiss Petrek, now the 509th Operations Group commander.

Colonel Bankson graduated from the Air Force Academy with a degree in operations research. The New Haven, Conn. native also has a master's degree in aeronautical science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Jumper urges Airmen to 'stay encouraged'

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles

39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey (AFPN)—The war on terrorism, force shaping and the new fitness program are all major priorities in today's Air Force, said the service's senior leader during a visit here April 5.

With the recent gruesome murders of four U.S. contractors and the almost daily loss of American servicemembers' lives, the Air Force chief of staff's speech focused on ensuring Airmen stay encouraged throughout the fight.

"There are a lot of uncertainties with what's going on in Iraq," Gen. John P. Jumper said. "It's not very encouraging; but terrorists are people we have nothing in common with. They killed 3,000 people during the Sept. 11 attacks but would have killed 3 million without remorse if they could have. We have to stay resolute."

Although every Airman is needed for the fight, General Jumper said streamlining the existing force through the force-shaping program still remains a priority for Air Force leaders.

"During the 90s, we reduced our force by about 40 percent, but we didn't take the slots away," he said. "People were moved from critical skills to fill those slots, and we need them back. We're 16,000 people over our end strength."

"We don't want to kick out people who want to stay in,"



General Jumper said. "We'll continue our efforts to offer a way out for those who are ready to go and also rely on attrition."

For those who remain, the fitness program remains a concern.

"A lot of people are concerned about the waist measurement," he said. "I'm not worried about anyone maxing out the test; all I care about is if you pass and pass as a unit."

General Jumper said too many people are kicked out of the Air Force each year because of fitness issues.

"Did they have help?" he asked. "I'm not convinced they did. We have to help each other out so everyone passes the fitness test."

To ensure that, squadron commanders' officer performance reports will have an area to reflect how well their squadron did on the fitness test.

"The mark of a good leader is how well the people under him or her perform," he said.

General Jumper said it appears the leaders here are doing a great job.

"Incirlik remains a strategic location that is vital to Air Force operations," he said.

"I don't have to tell you what a great job you're doing," he said. "I think it's evident, especially with the important work you're doing to help U.S. Soldiers transit home."

This work does not go unnoticed by the American public, the general said.

"People look to the uniform as a symbol of power and strength," he said. "I guarantee if you walk down the street in your uniform, people will come up to you and thank you for what you do."



Photo by Senior Airman Nick Martin

Lt. Col. Clayton Perce, 509th Communications Squadron commander, is told the troops are ready for inspection by Master Sgt. John Benson, 509th CS first sergeant Thursday. Open ranks inspections are an opportunity to show pride in the uniform and Air Force. This open ranks was performed in preparation for the unit compliance inspection.

This pride should carry over to every Airman, General Jumper said.

"I recently visited an Airman in the hospital who was wounded by a landmine in Iraq. He lost his leg," he said. "But, when I walked into that hospital room, the first thing he said was, 'Don't let them kick me out.' He realized he was part of something bigger than himself. So are you. When you look in the mirror, be proud of what you see."

Modern-day band of brothers and sisters

By Lt. Col. Robert Hontz

509th Medical Operation Squadron Commander

Being a somewhat avid reader on all things World War II, I often find myself comparing life situations to occurrences during that period in our history. This occurred recently while pondering our squadron's motorcycle drivers. I realized motorcyclists support each other very much like the paratroopers did in the "Band of Brothers."

In Stephen Ambrose's biography of the courageous 101st Airborne paratroopers, the first impression I got was how these men took care of each other. During the 12-mile runs up Currahee Mountain, Easy company members did everything possible to ensure everyone finished. When unsafe leadership led to life threatening situations during combat, the NCOs forced change.

In a similar fashion, the motorcyclists of our medical group help ensure the safety of each other. Mature drivers mentor first time buyers on what feature to look at when shopping for their first bike.

In the spring, they begin meeting as a group to discuss loose gravel in intersections, deer, pot holes and other road haz-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Francesca Popp

Experienced motorcycle riders can share safety techniques with newer motorcyclists through conversation and example.

ards. All through the riding season they keep each other fine tuned on maintenance, safety gear and defensive riding techniques. New riders are trained and better prepared to hit the highway safely because of these sessions. Not exactly parachuting into Ste. Marie-du-mont, France during Operation Overlord but their preparations

mean safer first-time riders.

During paratrooper training at Camp Toccoa, Lieutenant Winters and his men began sharing experiences and developing a common language. They spoke of commonly held events and 'paratrooper speak' was their unique way of communicating.

Safety-minded motorcycle riders carry

on the tradition begun by Easy Company. Riders with years behind the handlebars share techniques that have served them well. They often ride in groups where demonstration replaces conversation.

New riders begin to build their own library of safe riding experiences with the old helmets and all strengthen their respect for safe motorcycling. Mature drivers speak of leaning into a curve and balanced braking, and younger drivers quickly pick up on this way of speaking. Over time and miles, these newly discovered methods become habit then life saving reflexes.

Army issued clothing didn't come from the fashion district of Paris but it was functional and designed to protect. Field jackets provided a degree of stealth and helmets kept craniums intact. Our safety-conscious road warriors select clothing not for its fashion, but for its function just like Bull and his fellow soldiers of Easy company.

Rather than blend in, motorcyclists want to stand out from other vehicles. They wear ultra bright colors with reflective patches so fellow motorists will notice them. Helmets are a must, but not to deflect shrapnel and enemy bullets. These helmets protect

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The deadline for article submissions to the Whiteman Spirit is noon Friday. If a holiday falls on Friday, the deadline then becomes 4 p.m. Thursday. Articles will be published on a space-available basis. Submission doesn't guarantee publication.

For more information, call the *Whiteman Spirit* office at 687-6133, fax us at 687-7948, e-mail: whiteman.spirit@whiteman.af.mil or write to us at:

509th BW/PA, 509 Spirit Blvd. Ste. 111
Whiteman AFB, Mo. 65305

One of Whiteman's own awarded SECDEF fellowship

By Senior Airman Nick Martin
Public Affairs

Lt Col. Scott Vander Hamm, 325th Bomb Squadron commander, was selected to participate in the Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellows Program.

"The (SDCFP) is an opportunity to learn (about) Fortune 500 companies business processes and corporate strategic planning, and see how they might benefit the Department of Defense and the SECDEF," Colonel Vander Hamm said.

Eight officers from the DoD, two per service, are selected annually for the fellowship program.

The participants receive senior service college credit by training with companies such as Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, 3M and Northrop Grumman, Colonel Vander Hamm said.

"It's an opportunity for normally busy military guys that have a career-path set out — the operators, the fliers and so forth — to see how the outside world is doing business, having to continually innovate, adapt and change in a competitive environment," Eric Briggs, SDCEFP program director, explained.

The program exposes the officers to



Photo by Senior Airman Nick Martin

Lt Col. Scott Vander Hamm, 325th Bomb Squadron commander, is one of eight officers in the Department of Defense that has been selected for a Secretary of Defense fellowship this year.

America's top businesses. They will have a first-hand view of the organizational structures and methods of operations to provide innovative and competitive advantages.

"It's a trade-off. While learning how the corporations can help the military, we offer

them our unique perspectives and insights as military officers," He said.

Colonel Vander Hamm will travel to Washington in June to receive six weeks of training. The initial training will acquaint him with the strategic issues and other fac-

tors facing the Defense Department.

Following the initial training, Col Vander Hamm will spend up to eight months immersed in the Fortune 500 Corporation.

During the one-year assignment, SDCFP officers, as a group, conduct discussion-level meetings with the senior leaders of each sponsoring company. They also update senior leaders in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Services on relevant observations and recommendations.

At the conclusion of the assignment, each SDCFP member submits a final report and the group, as a whole, provides individual briefings to the Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary, Service Secretaries and Chiefs, and more than three dozen other senior OSD and Service leaders.

SDCFP alumni form a cadre of future Service leaders more knowledgeable in the organizational and operational opportunities made possible by the revolutionary changes in information and other technologies that could be implemented to transform DoD.

"My family and I are excited to be a part of this program," Colonel Vander Hamm said.



Photo by Senior Airman Nick Martin

Dining Facility closure

Shelly Lacaprucia, 509th Services Squadron, chats with Airman 1st Class Jason Welsh, 509th Security Forces Squadron, as he purchases his lunch at the Ozark Inn. A renovation project will temporarily close the Ozark Inn beginning April 30. The renovations will include installing a new serving line, overhauling of kitchen equipment, food storage area, expanded loading dock and dishwashing area. Airmen living in the dorms and all enlisted members assigned to Whiteman will receive the rations in kind not available rate of basic allowance for subsistence at \$8.75 per day during the renovations. The new BAS rate takes effect in the May 15 paycheck. The Ozark Inn is scheduled to re-open for business Aug. 1. Upon reopening on Aug. 1, all enlisted members will revert to previous BAS rates — meal card deductions for dorm residents — and \$8.48 per day for all other enlisted members. For more details on BAS, call the 509th Comptroller Squadron at 687-5389.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Tax cutoff

Tech. Sgt. Marc Funston, 509th Medical Group tax representative, explains tax paperwork to Senior Airman Vince Hess, 509th Communications Squadron. Wing members are reminded the April 15 tax deadline is approaching. For more information, call the tax office at 687-3800.

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Lt. Col. Bruce Adams, 509th Bomb Wing director of staff, discusses upcoming community events with Becky Lawson, 509th BW.

509th BW member wins Air Force award

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Public Affairs

Three years ago, Becky Lawson knew little about the military.

She was a 19-year-old transfer student from Southwest Missouri State University and needed part-time work. So she applied for a part-time position with the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office. Three years later, she would develop into the Air Force's top public affairs civilian.

The California, Mo., native began as a part-time staff writer for the *Whiteman Spirit*, and eventually moved to community relations.

She manages and coordinates base community council events. The BCC is an organization used to build and maintain positive relations between Whiteman and surrounding communities.

She also coordinates flyover requests, speaker requests and helps during media visits. This marks the second time Mrs. Lawson received the award, as she won the honor in 2001.

"We give her a lot of responsibility," said 2nd Lt. Ed Gulick, 509th BW/PA deputy officer. "She excels with everything we give her. She's an asset to this office that we don't want to lose, because she's able to do so much."

During her time here, Mrs. Lawson said she's learned life lessons she will apply to her future career. She said her time in public affairs helped develop her networking and vocal skills.

"I've learned people skills are important because whoever's giving a tour is the face and personality that represents Whiteman," she said. "That's their first impression. It's really important to be friendly and energetic to create a good, positive environment."

Now a senior finance major at Central Missouri State University, Mrs. Lawson graduates May 8. She originally hoped to acquire a position in finance because she said she enjoys working with people. She said, coming from a small town of about 4,000 people, working at Whiteman allowed her to work with many types of people with roots nationwide opening her eyes to diversity.

"Working at Whiteman has helped me become a well-rounded person and helped me see what's out there," Mrs. Lawson said. "I've gotten to see other people's points of view. A lot of people never get to see the B-2. It's an honor to show the B-2 during tours and see their reactions."

Master Sgt. Dee Ann Poole, 509th BW, said Mrs. Lawson is a pleasure to work with.

"She's anxious to learn and learns quickly," Sergeant Poole said. "Both of which are important skills in the demanding and hi-vis world of public affairs."

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in all we do*

Continuing the LEGACY



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Staff Sgt. Maria Reyes-Witak, 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron, risked her life to give birth to her son, Alberto, now 8 years old.

A mother's strength

72nd member sacrifices for son

By Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Public Affairs

Maria Reyes had a choice: Risk her life or get an abortion.

A doctor at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., told her that keeping her baby would put her life at risk in May 1995.

Now Staff Sgt. Reyes-Witak after marriage, she is assigned to the 72nd Test and Evaluation Squadron here. Then a single senior airman, she was a month into her pregnancy when the doctor gave her the news.

The Chihuahua, Mexico native had been diagnosed with a form of cervical dysplasia, before she became pregnant. It's a pre-cancerous change of the cervix cells that could develop into cervical cancer. She said she couldn't receive the treatment necessary to fight the dysplasia because it could harm her baby. Sergeant Reyes-Witak faced a difficult decision: keep the baby and face a 50-50 chance of survival, or get an abortion and save her health.

She kept the baby.

"The odds were against me," Sergeant Reyes-Witak said. "I don't think I thought about myself. I thought more about the baby than I did myself."

While the reality of the health risks set in, she tried to continue her life. Her friends and co-workers supported her during her pregnancy, giving her rides to appointments, bringing her food, movies and keeping her company. She said she showed no emotion at work or around companions. But when she sat alone in her dorm room, the tears fell.

"There were a couple times I lost it," she said. "I would think, 'Why am I doing this?'"

But she said the thought of seeing her unborn son pulled her through. She also thought of the hardships she endured before her pregnancy for inspiration. She remembered when she spent seven years in poverty growing up in the Mexican village of Delicias. Afterward, she moved to New Mexico. She also thought of her father, who worked long hours as a farmer in New Mexico to put food on the table for his five daughters.

"My father said, 'No matter what happens, if you put your mind to it, you can get through anything,'" she said.

Sergeant Reyes-Witak used that philosophy to push herself while pregnant. A few weeks later, sharp pains

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Whiteman Spirit Award



Staff Sgt. Cheryl Allen
509th Security Forces Squadron

Staff Sgt. Cheryl Allen, 509th Security Forces Squadron, received the Whiteman Spirit Award from Brig. Gen. Doug Raaberg, 509th Bomb Wing commander, Monday.

Master Sgt. Daniel Hawkins, 509th Security Forces Squadron, nominated her for the award for her work as the squadron's unit training manager. Before the Nuclear Surety Inspection in December, Sergeant Allen took stacks of on-the-job training records home and reviewed them. This resulted in zero discrepancies during the NSI.

Sergeant Allen oversees the upgrade training of more than 500 squadron members.

"Sergeant Allen will spend whatever time necessary to train people on completing (OJT) records," Sergeant Hawkins said.

She also briefs new female airmen assigned to the squadron and helps squadron members complete career development courses on time.

Personally Speaking

Duty title: Unit training manager

Time on station: 1 year, 2 months

Time in service: 11 years

Hometown: Lima, Ohio

Hobbies: Playing tennis, running, watching movies and spending quality time with my family.

Goals: To finish my degree and make technical sergeant.

Best thing about Whiteman: The 509th Security Forces Squadron camaraderie.

Pet peeves: Incomplete OJT records

What motivates your winning spirit? My desire to be the best training manager I can be.

If you could change one thing at Whiteman, what would it be? I wouldn't change anything; everything you need or want is never far away.

Submitting a Whiteman Spirit Award

Individuals are nominated from within their units or by customers impressed by the individual making Whiteman a better place to live and work by going far beyond his or her assigned duties to "make it happen."

If you know someone who has the Whiteman Spirit, send the nomination to the 509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 509, Suite 111, or e-mail whiteman.spirit@Whiteman.af.mil.

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REYES-WITAK, continued from Page 7

pierced her back. She began contracting in her second month of pregnancy.

Sergeant Reyes-Witak's doctor told her she had high blood pressure due to stress and put her on bed rest.

Her anguish remained, but she shifted her focused on keeping her baby healthy; eating right and making appointments. But she worried her son may have brain damage, be underdeveloped or have malfunctioning organs. A amniocentesis helped eased her doubts. Doctors took a tissue sample that revealed the child was in good health.

By her seventh month, the doctors couldn't stop the contractions with medication anymore. She would have to deliver the child one month early. Sergeant Reyes-Witak kept her fingers crossed.

"I look at it as, if God wants it to happen, it will hap-

pen," She said. "I tried not to let it bother me."

She gave birth to a five-pound, six -ounce healthy boy, she named him Alberto After the child's birth, her dysplasia disappeared.

"I was relieved, happy and tired," Sergeant Reyes-Witak said. "A lot of weight was lifted."

Nearly eight years later, she lives with her son and husband, Staff Sgt. Anthony Witak, a 509th Mission Support Squadron member. The child's biological father, a military policeman whom Sergeant Reyes-Witak declined to talk about, still pays child support but no longer visits.

Her son, now a second grader at Whiteman Elementary School inspires her and her husband, she said. Alberto enjoys playing soccer and participating in school activities. But her difficult pregnancy has given her courage to face anything life deals her.

"I think everything that's happened to me has made me stronger," said Sergeant Reyes-Witak, who enlisted in 1993. "I don't take things too seriously now. I learned to appreciate little things."

Her dysplasia resurfaced while serving on a remote tour in Korea and disappeared recently. She must still get periodically checked for reoccurrence of dysplasia. The fear and possibility of one day acquiring cervical cancer remains. But she still has her life.

And Alberto.

"She'd give the world for him," her husband said.

"Everything feels really good. No matter how many mistakes we make, he's keeps us going. He gives me energy I never thought I would have."

"I never thought I would be able to endure that much."

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BAND, continued from Page 2

the valuable contents between the cyclist's ears if a stray dog or deep puddle causes a spill.

The intense combat necessary to liberate Europe meant a heavy loss of Easy Company lives. Replacements straight from stateside training blended into the ranks of those toughened by months of combat.

New cyclists in some ways are like these replacements. Military life style mandates permanent -change-of-station moves so new riders arrive throughout the year. Unlike their counterparts from 1943, our road warrior veterans welcome replacements. They're immediately oriented into the Whiteman ways of safe motorcycling.

The riders club eagerly drafts them as new members, their squadron commander delivers a briefing that helps keep them safe and all are accepted into the band as full-up brothers or sisters.

Comparing a drive on Highway 50 to the hazards of facing enemy fire during combat may seem a stretch, but preparation is still essential.

Training together for the safety of all worked for the paratroopers of Easy Company and still works for 509er motorcycle drivers.



Photo by Senior Airman Nick Martin

Civilian site seen

Natalie Thomas, 509th Maintenance Group, browses the newest tool for civilian employees to track their career. The virtual Civilian Career Brief allows Air Force civilians to view their career information online from any Internet-connected computer. Users must establish an account on the Web site to use the service. The vCCB provides information to civilian employees that will help them with career planning, such as pay and benefits, appraisals and education. For more details about vCCB, log on to <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/> or call the civilian personnel office at 687-6475.

Info and access to the Civilian Career Brief Link

Information available at the vCCB

- ✓ Job history
- ✓ Training history
- ✓ Appraisal summary
- ✓ Current job experience
- ✓ Awards
- ✓ Special placement eligibility
- ✓ Certifications and language proficiencies.

To access the link

- ✓ Log on to <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/>
- ✓ Click on Web Applications.
- ✓ Click on Civilian Career Brief.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Tech. Sgt. Jeff Siefkas, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron NCO in charge of fuels hydrants, inspects a refuel-pantograph. A refuel-pantograph is used to connect fuel to a B-2. The hydrants area has two 420,000-gallon tanks used to support refueling operations.

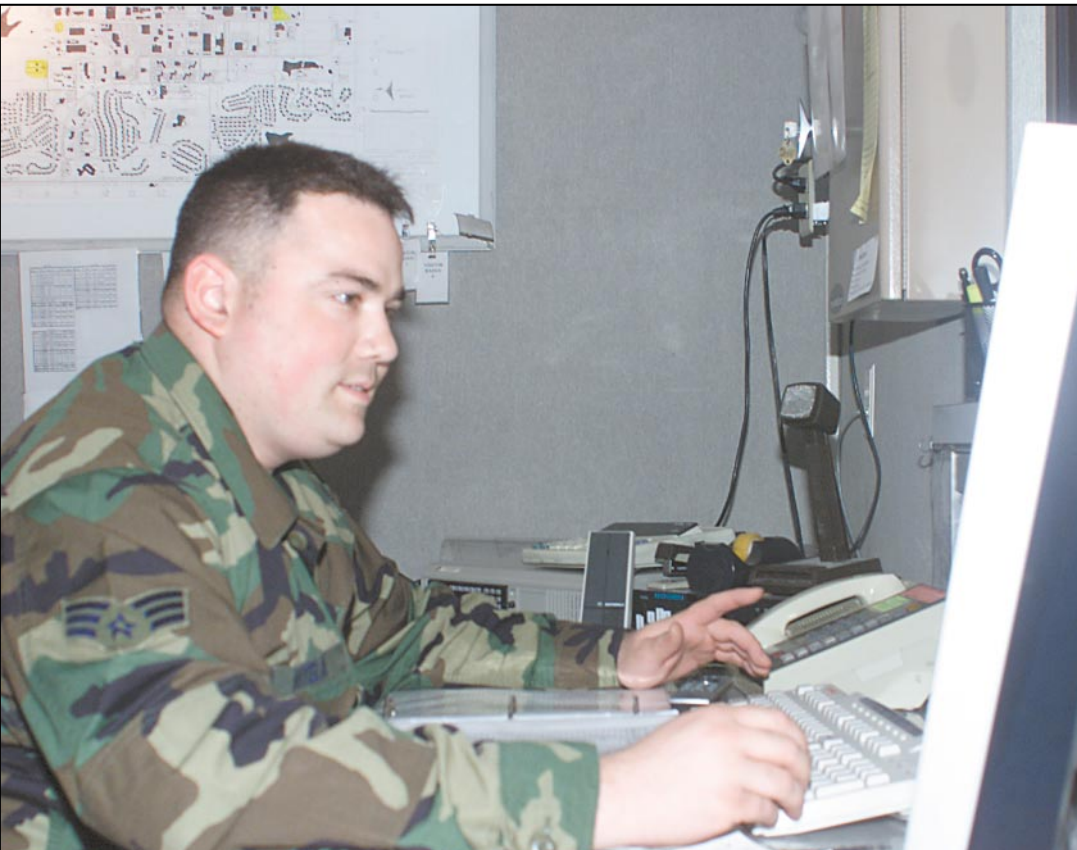


Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Senior Airman Jason Vitela, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron resource controller, reviews the daily log. Resource controllers handle the fuel requests for the base and dispatches fuel trucks to service aircrafts.



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Senior Airman Steve Burnett, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels technician, performs an odor test on liquid oxygen. Liquid oxygen is placed in aircraft and is then converted into a gas state for pilots to breathe. The fuels management flight provides petroleum and cryogenic support for the base. This includes fuels servicing support for the B-2s, A-10s, T-38s and transient aircraft. They also provide fuel and laboratory support to the 1-135th Attack Battalion.

April fuels!

Fuels is no joke; they get the job done



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Senior Airman Rob Hamilton, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron bulk storage operator, hooks a hose up to a civilian-fuel truck to off load fuel into a fuel storage unit. At the fuels bulk storage compound, aircraft-servicing trucks refuel from the two 1,250,000-gallon tanks.



Photo by Senior Airman Shawn Clements

Staff Sgt. Mike Zulawski, 509th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels laboratory technician, visually examines a fuel sample for clarity and quality. At the fuels lab, members use a fume hood to test and analyze fuel samples for the base.

Good Friday

The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion begins at 7 p.m. today. A basket will be placed near the cross for donations. This is a worldwide traditional collection taken up each year at the request of the Holy Father for the preservation of the pilgrim sites in the Holy Land, conducted by the military archdiocese.



For more details about this event, call the chapel at 687-3652.

Chapel Corner**Protestant**

Good Friday service — Noon, today
Easter Sunday — 7 a.m. sunrise service at Skelton Park; 9 a.m. general service; 12:45 p.m. Gospel service.

Catholic

Good Friday service — 7 p.m. today

Saturday — 8 p.m. Easter vigil
Easter Sunday Mass — 10:45 a.m.

Events take place at the chapel unless noted. For more details, call the chapel at 687-3652.

Additional worship opportunities are offered through various lay councils, organizations and activities. For more information, call 687-3652.

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What’s happening

Thrift Savings Plan open season begins

The Thrift Savings Plan open season begins Thursday and ends June 31. Contributions can be made or changed during open season. To make a contribution election, submit form TSP-U-I to the 509th Comptroller Squadron or begin contributions through myPay. The forms are available from the 509th CPTS or the TSP Web site at www.tsp.gov. For more details, call 687-7911.

Prescribed burns scheduled

The natural resources planner will conduct prescribed burns during April. Some of the burns takes place at the Royal Oaks Golf Course. Another will be at a remnant tract of prairie In Knob Noster. The rest of the burns will be along the base perimeter in unmaintained areas. These burns are used to stimulate native vegetation and to deter invasive species. This will also eliminate woody shrubs and trees along the perimeter, increasing visibility and base security.

Tobacco cessation classes set

Tobacco cessation classes begin at 11 a.m. April 15, 22, 29, May 6 and 13. For more details, call Tech. Sgt. Monica Botch at 687-2199.

Military family appreciation day set

The Warrensburg Military Affairs Committee sponsors a Military Family Appreciation Day 5-9 p.m. April 30 at the Warrensburg Community Center. Free food and swimming will be available. Players from the Central Missouri State University basketball and baseball teams will be available to play games with children. The event is open to all military families. For more details or to R.S.V.P., call 687-6123 by April 23.

Reserve openings available

The Air Force Reserve offers opportunities to people separating from active duty. The reserve offers most active-duty benefits, pay and retirement. For more details,

call Master Sgt. Kim Halstead at 687-6483.

Clubs may need special status

Squadron booster clubs and other fundraising activity organizations may be required to become a private organization. POs are self-sustaining interest groups organized by people outside the scope of official business. If your organization’s or activity’s assets exceed a monthly average of \$1,000 in a three-month period, it’s required to become a PO. Members of any PO or unofficial activity who wish to start a fundraiser must submit an official request. For more details, call 2nd Lt. Rosanna Wadkins at 687-5386.

Pre-retirement briefing set

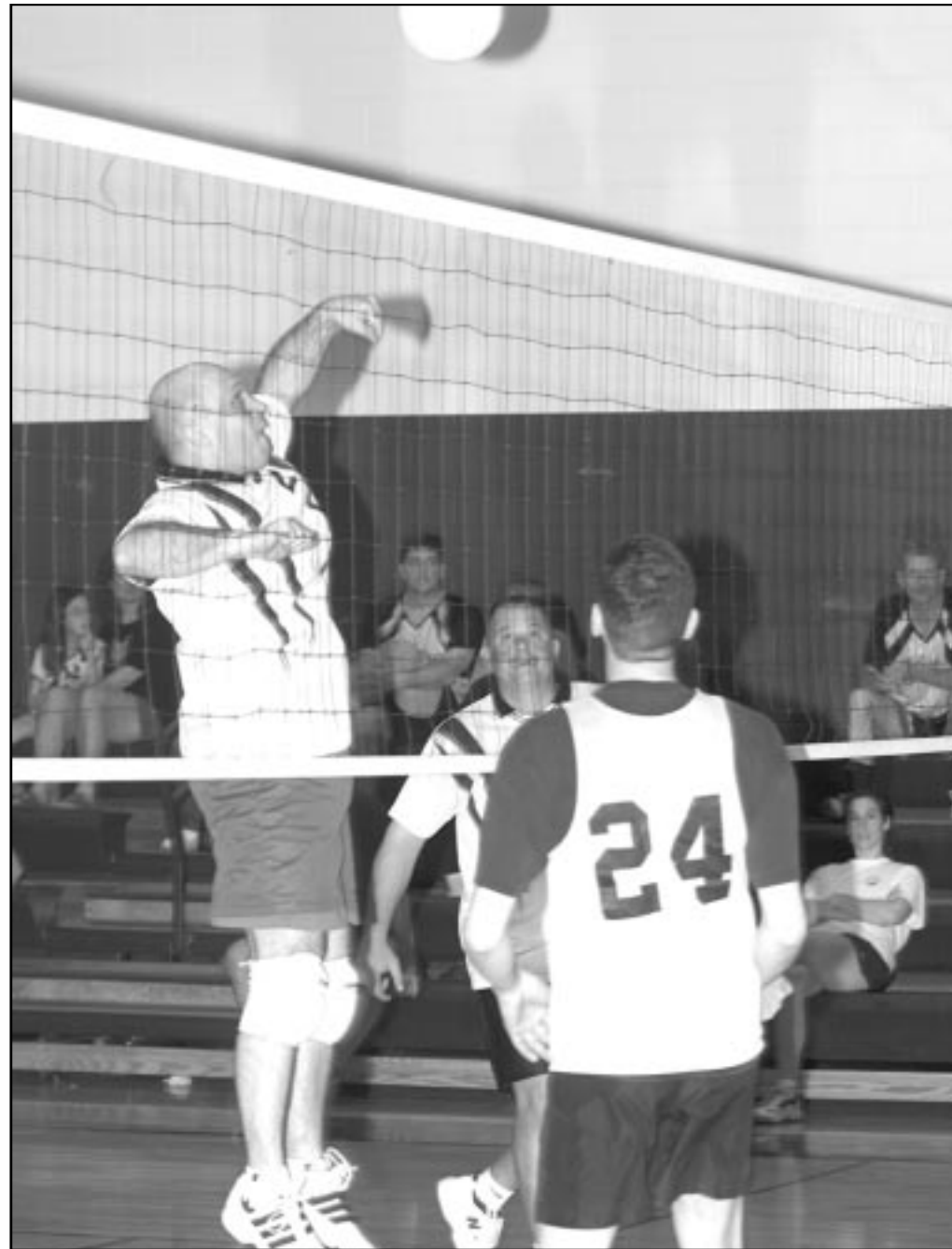
A pre-retirement briefing for people retiring from the military begins at 9 a.m. Monday. Representatives from the military personnel flight family support center, Tri-care, survivor benefit plan officials and finance will provide information. For more information, call the MPF at 687-1500.

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Sports

Playoffs approaching



Photos by Airman 1st Class Joe Lacdan

Stuart Reiter, 509th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron intramural volleyball player, hits the ball over the net against the 393rd Bomb Squadron Tuesday night. AMXS won 25-10, 16-25, 15-12. Extramural playoffs began Wednesday. The intramural regular season ends Thursday.



Carolyn Morgia, 509th Security Forces Squadron, prepares to serve during her team's 25-16, 25-17 intramural win against the 442nd Fighter Wing Flyers.

Varsity softball tryouts set

Try out for the 2004 Whiteman varsity softball team 5-7 p.m. April 19-30 on field one. For more details or to sign up, call the fitness center at 687-5496 or Senior Master Sgt. Mark Hamrick at 687-6503.



Services page editor.....Beth Ott
509th Services Squadron.....687-4386

*No federal endorsement of mentioned sponsors intended.

Sports & Recreation

Fitness Center 687-5496

"1040 Tax Day 5K Run"

Relieve the stress of tax season in the 1040 5k run at the fitness center beginning at noon Thursday. Sign up now.

ACC Fitness & Sports Challenge

Support your squadron by competing in the second annual Air Combat Command Fitness & Sports Challenge — May 3 features a 5k run, May 5 features team push-ups, team crunch sit-ups and a wacky ski race, and May 7 features a tug-o-war. Whiteman will select four men and four women to move to the next level competition, held at the Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb., June 7-11. Prizes will be awarded. Sign up by April 28 at the fitness center.

Royal Oaks 687-5572

Four-person scramble

Compete in the four-person scramble 8 a.m. April 24 at Royal Oaks. The cost is \$15 per person. Cart and greens fee not included. Sign up by April 24.

Stars & Strikes 687-5114

Summer bowling leagues

Sign up for the summer bowling league beginning in May. Tuesdays are regular bowling leagues, Wednesdays are adult and child leagues and Thursdays are mixed leagues. Call Stars & Strikes for more details.

Outdoor Recreation 687-5565

Rock climbing

Certified climbers can rock climb 5:30-9 p.m. today and April 23 at outdoor recreation. A free certification course takes place 6-8 p.m.

Boater safety class

A boater safety class begins at 11 a.m. Thursday at outdoor recreation. People must take this class to rent a boat from outdoor recreation. Learn Missouri state laws, rules about safety and equipment use. Special classes for squadron functions and hands-on training are also available. Spaces are limited; sign up early.

Frisbee golf competition

Compete in a frisbee golf competition 9 a.m.-noon Saturday at the base lake. Bring a frisbee and lunch. Drinks will be provided at this free event.

Open water scuba orientation

Get qualified to scuba dive on base at a scuba orientation class 5:30-10 p.m. June 14-18 at the base pool. The cost of \$190 fee instruction, books and use of equipment. Sign up by May 26 at outdoor recreation. Call for more details and requirements for personal equipment use.

Katy Trail ride

Take a 25-mile bike ride along the Katy Trail 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. April 17. Bring your bike, water and lunch to travel from Green Ridge to Clifton City, Mo. Bikes and helmets will be provided if needed. There's a \$7 fee for transportation. Sign up by Thursday.

Annual spring crappie tournament

Compete in a crappie tournament 7:15 a.m.-3 p.m. April 24 at Windsor Crossing. There's an entry fee of \$25 per boat with one or two person teams. Register by April 20 at outdoor recreation. Late entries will be accepted if available the day of the tournament with a \$5 late fee.



Community Activities



Skills Development 687-5691

Framing class

Take a framing class 11 a.m.-2 p.m. April 17 at the skills development center. The \$40 fee includes instruction and supplies. Sign up by noon the day before the class.

Children's leather working class

Children 8 and older can make a small change purse 1-3 p.m. Saturday at the skills development center. The \$5 fee includes instruction and supplies. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up by noon today.

Child Development Center 687-5588

Drop-in care

The child development center has drop-in day care for children 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. on a space-available basis.

Youth Center 687-5586

Spring dance

Fifth through seventh graders can attend a spring dance 6-9 p.m. April 17 at the youth center. Socialize with friends and enter in a dance contest. The cost is \$3 for members and \$4 for nonmembers. Sign up begins Monday.

4-H skill-a-thon

Members of 4-H, their families and those interested in learning about 4-H are welcome to attend a skill-a-thon 2-7 p.m. April 17 at the youth center. Some activities will be presented by the Whiteman Spirit 4-H Club. There's no sign up for this free event.

Air Force Space Camp

Air Force Services Family Member Programs are sponsoring the second annual Space Camp Program in Huntsville, Ala. Youth 12-14 can apply to attend Aug. 1-6 and ages 15-18 can apply to attend July 31-Aug. 6. Fifty people will be selected Air Forcewide. Selectees will be announced May 21. Pick up application packages and regulations at the youth center and turn in by Thursday.

Members only fun night

Members in kindergarten through seventh grade are welcome to fun night 6:30-9:30 p.m. April 23 at the youth center. Enjoy dinner from the taco bar, play bingo, watch a movie, make crafts and more. Sign up begins April 19 for this free event.

Wild wild west night

Kindergartners through fourth graders are welcome to wild wild west night 6:30-9:30 p.m. April 16 at the youth center. Youth can wear western clothes, make trail mix, watch a western movie, learn to line dance, sing country songs and more. This event is \$5 for members and \$6.50 for nonmembers. Sign up begins Monday.



Food & Fun



Mission's End 687-4422

Comedy night

Watch comedians live 8-10:30 p.m. April 16 at Mission's End. The cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers.

Members \$1 breakfast

Members can eat a \$1 breakfast 6-8 a.m. Thursday at Mission's End. Enjoy scrambled eggs, sausage, gravy and more.

Prime rib buffet

Enjoy a prime rib buffet 5:30-8 p.m. April 16 at Mission's End. Slow roasted prime rib, vegetables, potatoes and dessert will be offered. The cost is \$13.95 for members and \$16.95 for nonmembers.

Teen Center 687-5819

Worlds of Fun trip

Teens can take a trip to Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Mo., 1-11 p.m. April 17. The cost of \$28 includes admission and transportation. Bring money for food and drinks. Sign up by Thursday at the teen center.

Grillin' and chillin'

Teens are welcome to socialize with friends while grilling hamburgers and hot dogs 6-8 p.m. April 16 at the teen center. The \$3 fee for members and \$5 fee for nonmembers includes hamburgers, hot dogs and chips. Bring money for drinks. Sign up by Wednesday.

Camping trip

Take a camping trip to Johnson's Shut-In State Park April 23-25. Teens can hike, tell camp fire stories, participate in team building activities and visit Elephant Rock and Taum Sauk Mountain. The \$30 fee includes transportation and meals. Sign up by April 21.

Family Child Care 687-5590/1180

Extended Duty Care

Register now for the extended duty care program. It's available to help parents meet child care requirements for extra duty hours and child care emergencies. Care is provided in a contracted, licensed family child care home to augment regular care arrangements. An application must be completed prior to participation. Call for more details.

Community Center 687-5617

Video game tournament

A video game tournament begins at 2 p.m. Saturday at the community center. Compete in three rounds from two popular gaming systems. There's no sign up for this \$2 event. Youth 16 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Youth and teen flea market

Bring clothes, video games, posters, CDs, movies and more to the youth and teen flea market at 1 p.m. April 17 in the community center. There's no sign up for this free event.

Family night pajama party

Bring the family, a pillow and sleeping bag to a pajama party 6-8 p.m. April 24 at the community center. Enjoy games, face painting, a movie, a pillow fight and more. There's no sign up for this free event.

Bus trip to Kaufman Stadium

Take a bus trip to see the Royals vs. the Rangers baseball game at Kaufman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., 5:30-11 p.m. April 27. The \$10 fee includes transportation and admission. Sign up at the community center the day of the event.



Travel & Leisure



Tickets & Travel 687-5643

Worlds of Fun

Worlds of Fun is now open weekends. Visit Tickets & Travel for tickets to any amusement park across the country.

Whiteman Base Theater

Friday

Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen

7 p.m.

PG

Saturday Twisted

7 p.m.

R

Sunday Eurotrip

5:30 p.m.

R